

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for March 1959

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

In checking maps for suitability for re-run, it has been found that maps done in the Construction Branch have been placed in the jacket without circulating them through the interested Compilation Branch. Comments of a substantive nature which appeared on the Revision and Rerun Record were not pertinent and if followed would have represented a departure from policies worked out by the Compilation Branch in treating maps on this area. It is recommended that all maps done in the Construction Branch be circulated through the pertinent compilation branch for review and comment upon any substantive notations that may be made on the Revision and Rerun Record. This would be of value to all concerned at the time that the map is called up for rerun, especially as it may not always be handled by the branch normally involved.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Editing and Review Staff comments: The problem of form and character of contributions to NIE was brought to the fore as a result of the D/GG materials submitted for inclusion in NIE 11-6-59, Soviet Science and Technology. The preliminary frame of reference, which was provided as a guide only, made no provision for geography. The Division therefore submitted four separate geographic memoranda which were to be incorporated in toto or in part. At the suggestion of Ch/G, three of these were incorporated into a single unit that was specifically keyed to the preliminary frame of reference. As a result the amount of work was almost doubled. To avoid such situations in the future and to improve the quality of D/GG contributions to NIE, it is recommended that before the next contribution is submitted the form and content of it be discussed by the Chiefs, G, D/GG, the responsible branch, and GG/R.

Curtailment of FDD services to ORR to 150 pages of translating per month, if carried through, will cut drastically into the Geography Division program.

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██████████ GG/F, has made the following proposal: A serious, though not acute, problem which continually faces government geographers is the tendency to lose touch with current developments in geographic methodology as the individual's college experience fades. The result is often reliance upon outdated methods in geographical research and a lamentable tendency to fall into habits of thought and expression that may have been discarded by academic geographers years earlier. It is proposed that GRA sponsor a continuing series of geographic "seminars" as a means of ameliorating this general tendency to fall behind academic geographers in matters of methodology that may affect GRA projects and plans. ██████████ has spelled out further details of this proposal and will be glad to discuss them.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

EUROPE BRANCH

Some magazines requested on inter-library loan from Agriculture Department were lost for over 6 weeks in coming here. This is an all-time record.

Requests from M/AG for assistance in preparation of the topographic section of Section 62 leads to the reflection that this is a contribution that D/GG is equipped to prepare and should have been preparing all along. It is thoroughly "geographic" and right up our alley. It is suggested that an attempt be made to "educate" M/AG to seek D/GG assistance for this portion (and the climate and soil portions) of all future Section 62's. Admittedly these are not prestige-type projects, but they are continuing intelligence jobs that need to be done.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA Branch

The possibility of establishing a Committee on Africa has been discussed with several offices in DDI. In general the idea has been well received until it is learned that the procedure calls for something besides sitting and listening. Most offices feel that they are not in a position to contribute anything but could learn a lot if speakers were provided.

FAR EAST - PACIFIC BRANCH 25X1A9a

(Remainder of [REDACTED] proposal:)

These seminars could be organized in any one of several ways. It might be advisable to devote a two-hour period every other week or once a month to the actual meeting. For each meeting, an analyst could be assigned as chairman and discussion leader. This leader would be responsible for a careful analysis of a selected article or book in the field of geographical methodology (library or field research methods, mapping techniques, air photo interpretation innovations, statistical approaches to areal differentiation, or examples of these in published materials); the assigned monograph would have been read also by other members of the group, preferably at least three others, who would aid in the discussion. Attendance at the seminars would be voluntary but encouraged by GRA. Occasionally, outside professionals from ERA or PIC or DD/P could be invited to participate as guest lecturers or as observers. Selection of topics could be made on an individual basis (by the assigned chairman) or on an official basis (by a group or committee, or the chairman of GRA or his deputies). Appropriate publicity would be accorded this program and an opportunity to evaluate it could be given to all GRA professionals after a reasonable trial period.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

COORDINATION STAFF

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The control problem cited in the February monthly report has raised an additional one -- the interpretation of paragraph 3 or R51-700, 1 March 1956, the "Stamp Act". If the statement, "The control stamps, a through g, will be placed only on classified material and" is interpreted literally, all maps stamped with any of the controls cited must also have a security classification. This has not been the practice for maps so stamped by the CIA Map Library. [REDACTED] of the Map Library is to get an exact ruling on this matter from the classification and control officer in Security. GG/C is particularly concerned with this problem because both the control and the classification are given for maps cited in Chapter IX.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

Personnel within the Processing Branch were shifted during the month to assist in the solution of a major typing problem. The typing service at the Clerical Pool was discontinued early in March and will not be resumed until 1 May, when additional personnel will enter on duty. The editor of the "Acquisitions List for Maps of Foreign Areas" depends largely upon the service of the Pool for the typing of the stencils for the List, and the Pool situation currently presents a serious handicap. The shifting of the Processing Branch personnel to meet the publication schedule bridged the gap, but it is not feasible on a continuing basis.

Requests from exchange agencies and the Geographic Attaches have been increasing. This has resulted in a considerable backlog of materials to be transmitted. 24 hours of overtime should relieve the situation.

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